

was apparently successful as, less than a week after the meeting, Sen. Wellstone wrote to Secretary Babbitt “to add my voice of concern to the voices of my Minnesota Congressional colleagues” in opposition to the Hudson proposal.¹¹⁴ Wellstone’s July 26, 1994, letter to Secretary Babbitt expressed arguments similar to those in the May 1 letter from other members of the Minnesota congressional delegation.¹¹⁵

On June 7, 1994, BlueDog also sent a letter on behalf of MIGA, to Rep. Rod Grams (R-Minn.). On Aug. 12, 1994, he sent a nearly identical letter to Rep. Bill Richardson (D-N.M.), Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Native American Affairs. These letters described the Hudson casino proposal as a matter “of the utmost importance to the Minnesota Tribes,” and sought aid from the legislators in the form of “your direct intervention with the Secretary of the Interior” in opposing the proposal.¹¹⁶

¹¹³(...continued)
at 71-72.

¹¹⁴Letter from Paul Wellstone to Bruce Babbitt, July 26, 1994.

¹¹⁵According to Wellstone Legislative Director Michael Epstein, he and Wellstone Chief of Staff Kari Moe subsequently met with opponent representatives in the Hart Senate Office Building. Epstein also recalls that someone suggested that Wellstone place a telephone call to Douglas Sosnik or Harold Ickes at the White House, possibly about opposing Hudson, though Epstein could not recall. Epstein told them that it would be a bad idea for Wellstone to make such a call, and there is no evidence that Wellstone did so. Wellstone did later co-sign a June 12, 1995, letter to Ickes. *See* Section II.E.4.e.3., *infra*.

¹¹⁶McCarthy now downplays MIGA’s characterizations of the proposal as having the “utmost importance” to it as an exaggeration designed to better gain congressional attention to the proposal. Grand Jury Testimony of John McCarthy, Jan. 27, 1999, at 126.

There was also activity involving Wisconsin’s members of Congress at this juncture. On Aug. 1, 1994, Sen. Kohl met with representatives of the three applicant tribes. Kohl legislative assistant Melissa Jampol wrote Kohl a memorandum about the meeting, recommending that he remain neutral on Hudson due to the political volatility of the proposal; she told Kohl to “not
(continued...) ”